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SEIKO EPSON CORPORATION

COMMUNICATION

The European Patent Office herewith transmits as an enclosure the European search report for the above-mentioned European patent application.

If applicable, copies of the documents cited in the European search report are attached.

☒ Additional set(s) of copies of the documents cited in the European search report is (are) enclosed as well.

The following specifications given by the applicant have been approved by the Search Division:

☐ abstract

☒ title

☒ The abstract was modified by the Search Division and the definitive text is attached to this communication.

The following figure will be published together with the abstract:

1

REFUND OF THE SEARCH FEE

If applicable under Article 10 Rules relating to fees, a separate communication from the Receiving Section on the refund of the search fee will be sent later.





European Patent
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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 01.11 2869

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
X	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 004, no. 088 (M-017), 24 June 1980 (1980-06-24) -& JP 55 044473 A (SEVEN ENG:KK), 28 March 1980 (1980-03-28) * abstract; figures *	1-3,11	B65H3/06 B65H3/52
X	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 1999, no. 08, 30 June 1999 (1999-06-30) -& JP 11 071036 A (SEIKO EPSON CORP), 16 March 1999 (1999-03-16) * abstract; figures *	1-3,11	
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A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 2000, no. 07, 29 September 2000 (2000-09-29) & JP 2000 095354 A (SEIKO EPSON CORP), 4 April 2000 (2000-04-04) * abstract *	1	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7) B65H
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 15 October 2003	Examiner Lemmen, R
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X: particularly relevant if taken alone Y: particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A: technological background O: non-written disclosure P: intermediate document</p> <p>T: theory or principle underlying the invention E: earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D: document cited in the application L: document cited for other reasons &: member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

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ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.

EP 01 11 2869

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.
The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
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15-10-2003

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For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82



ABSTRACT / ZUSAMMENFASSUNG / ABREGE

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A paper returner (42) is placed in the vicinity of an end portion of a hopper (3) for stacking a plurality of sheets of paper (P) which faces a paper feeding roller (2), so as to be pivotable between a first position where the paper returner constitutes a part of the paper transporting passage, and a second position where the paper returner is isolated from the paper transporting passage. A separation pad (4) is provided on a first face of the paper returner. The separation pad has a friction coefficient which is higher than a friction coefficient of the first face of the paper returner. The paper returner is placed at the first position so that a top sheet of paper in the hopper is abutted against the paper feeding roller, and is separated from other sheets of paper by the separation pad. The paper returner is placed at the second position so that the first face of the paper returner returns sheets of paper, which are entered in the paper transporting passage together with the sheet of paper to be fed, to the hopper.